

Opening Statements

Dimidium facti qui copet habit
"Half is done when the beginning is complete"



Remember our Goal

Clarity

- Lack of clarity = wrongful acquittals
- "Ubi Dubium Ibi Libertas"
- Where there is doubt, there is freedom

But wait...

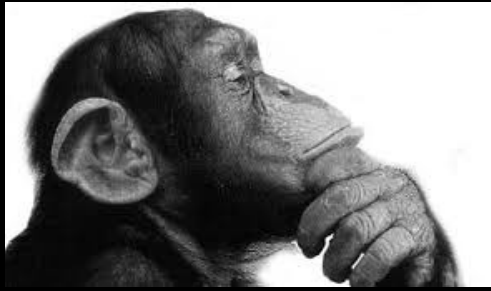
"I've had plenty
of opening
statement
trainings"





WeirdNutDaily.com

Time to Stop, Collaborate and Listen



How do we maximize clarity?

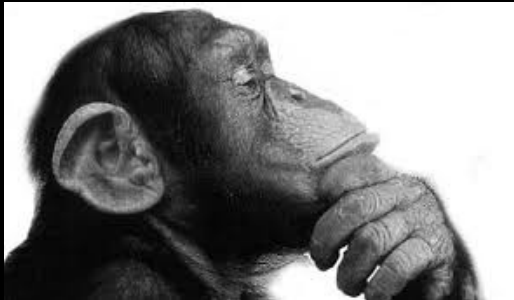
Techniques

- Good theme
- Perspective chosen for the jury
- Word choice and language used
- Tell the story
- End strong

Rule of thumb



Where to Begin?



Theme

Telling the Story

Exhibits?

What about law?

How do we end
strong?

Some DO NOT

- Ingratiation to the jury
- "This is what we lawyers call opening statement"
- What I say isn't evidence
- Introduce yourself
- Introduce the Elmo
- Opening Statements are like:
 - Roadmap
 - Recipe
 - Table of Contents
 - Jigsaw Puzzle
